

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Deninger et al.

Serial No: Not Yet Assigned

For: UHV COMPATIBLE LEAD THROUGH, DEVICE AND PROCEDURE
FOR HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR SPIN
POLARIZED ^3He AT HIGH POLARIZATION

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned Docket No.: 608.0006USU

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box: Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-noted
patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, line 1, in the Title, delete "Element", and replace
it with --UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 1, line 4, delete "element, a procedure and a device"
and replace it with --UHV-compatible lead through, a device and a
procedure--.

Page 11, line 31, after "design of", insert --an assembly--, and after "systems", insert --in an UHV compatible manner--.

Page 12, line 4, after "element", insert --, e.g., the UHV compatible lead through,--.

Page 12, line 6, delete "the housing" and replace it with --said UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 12, line 9, delete "the housing" and replace it with --said UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 12, line 11, delete "assemblies" and replace it with --UHV compatible lead throughs--.

Page 12, line 20, delete "the".

Page 12, line 23, delete "assemblies" and replace it with --,e.g., UHV compatible lead throughs,--.

Page 35, line 19, delete "element" and replace it with --UHV-compatible lead through--.

Page 35, line 23, delete "element" and replace it with --UHV-compatible lead through--.

Page 35, line 27, delete "element" and replace it with --UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 35, line 32, delete "element" and replace it with --UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 36, line 6, delete "element" and replace it with
--UHV compatible lead through--.

Page 36, line 12, delete "element" and replace it with
--UHV compatible lead through--.

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please delete the Abstract in its entirety, and replace it
with the following:

There is provided an ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead-
through comprises (a) a housing, (b) a first space, within the
housing, connected via a first port to a space outside the UHV-
compatible lead through, (c) a second space, within the housing,
connected via a second port to a closed system containing a
polarized gas, (d) a movable component, separating the first
space from the second space via an intermediate space, and (e)
seals for limiting a penetration of volatile media from the first
space into the second space. The lead through is particularly
suited for use in the production of polarized gases, such as ^3He .

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Cancel claims 1 through 52.

Add new claims 53 through 104 as follows:

Patent Claims

53) An ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead-through, comprising:

a housing;

a first space within said housing and connected via a first port to a space outside the UHV-compatible lead through;

a second space within said housing and connected via a second port to a closed system containing a polarized gas; a movable component separating the first space from the second space via an intermediate space; and seals for limiting a penetration of volatile media from said first space into said second space.

54) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53, characterized in that said intermediate space comprises a pumping connection.

55) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that said moveable components within said housing are pistons of compressors or tappet rods of pistons or of valves.

56) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53

characterized in that said UHV compatible lead through serves as an outlet valve such that the valve is tightened via an adjunct tappet which is coupled with a certain free play of movement to a tappet according to claim 55 such that

in case of said tappet being placed in an intermediate position, said adjunct tappet will tighten said valve only by an overpressure on the side of the outlet of said valve

in case of said tappet being moved into its forward position, said adjunct tappet will close said valve by force, independently of the pressure conditions.

in case of said tappet being moved into the rear position, said adjunct tappet will open said valve by force, independently of pressure conditions.

57) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that said intermediate space has a sufficient extension such that the stroke of said piston or of said tappet of said device is always shorter than the extension of said intermediate space in the direction of movement.

58) Assembly of Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that said assembly comprises several of said moveable components, placed next to each other in such a way that said intermediate spaces which belong to said moveable components are connected to each other in a conductive manner.

59) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that said intermediate space is sealed by gaskets fixed in notches around the said piston or the said tappet or the surrounding cylinder.

60) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that all of its parts which are in direct contact with the polarized ^3He comprise nonmagnetic or weakly magnetic materials having low outgassing rates.

61) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that the components which are moved at/ or exposed to mechanical wear and tear comprise little outgassing titanium or bronze.

62) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53,

characterized in that said UHV-compatible lead through is a compressor, designed in a way that the dead volume in the cylinder head is minimized when the piston is in the forward position.

63) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 62,

characterized in that said piston of said compressor or said tappet or said valve are driven by a hydraulic gear.

64) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 63,

characterized in that said hydraulic gear of said piston comprises two pressurized chambers inside of said piston.

65) Ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 63,

characterized in that the gear of said compressor comprises a fast running crankshaft with conrod.

66) Device for the production of nuclear spin polarized fluids comprising:

an assembly for optical pumping in a low pressure plasma,
a compressor assembly for compressing the polarized medium and
a storage volume,

wherein

said compressor assembly comprises at least one ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53

67) Device according to claim 66, characterized in that the valves of said device for producing polarized media comprise ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to claim 53

68) Device according to claim 67, characterized in that several valves of said device for producing polarized media are gathered into valve blocs.

69) Device according to claim 68, characterized in that said valve blocs comprise an intermediate vacuum common for a number of valves and that the intermediate vacua are connected to each other via bores.

70) Device according to claim 69, characterized in that one or several of said valve blocs comprise the inlet valve from said optical pumping assembly to said compressor assembly and / or the outlet valve from said compressor assembly into said storage volume.

71) Device according to claim 69, characterized in that one or several of said valve blocs comprise the valves for evacuating said optical pumping assembly and / or for controlling the gas flows, and the pressure monitors.

72) Device according to claim 67,

characterized in that the pipeline system of the device for gas transport and evacuation comprises little outgassing aluminum tubes, tightend by metal rings.

73) Device according to claim 67, characterized in that said device comprises ahead or after said optical pumping assembly (seen in the direction of flow) selectively absorbing getters.

74) Device according to claim 73, characterized in that said getters comprise nonferromagnetic getter substances.

75) Device according to claim 73, characterized in that said getters are evaporation getters.

76) Device according to claim 74, characterized in that said getter substances comprise little relaxing titanium.

77) Device according to claim 75, characterized in fact that said getter substances comprise Bismuth.

78) Device according to claim 75, characterized in that said optical pumping assembly comprises itself one or several of said evaporation getters.

79) Device according to claim 78, characterized in that said evaporation getter is part of said optical pumping assembly and is operated as a cathode in the plasma region of said optical pumping assembly in order to bind other gases fast and selectively.

80) Device according to claim 75,
characterized in that said evaporation getters comprise cooling
set-ups.

81) Device according to one of the claim 67,
characterized in that said device is designed such that the dead
volume within

- said cylinder head,
- said outlet valve of said compressor assembly to said
storage volume and
- said pipelines to said storage volume

are being minimized in order to enable a fast and almost complete
gas transport from said compressor assembly to said storage
volume.

82) Device according to claim 81,
characterized in that the stroke volume of said compressor is
designed in such a way that the fraction of the gas which remains
in the dead volume and relaxes therein is being minimized.

83) Device according to claim 67,
characterized in that said compressor assembly comprises a
compressor cylinder and that the ratio of the circumference of
the said compressor cylinder to the stroke volume of said
compressor is smaller than $1/(30\text{cm}^2)$, preferably smaller than
 $1/(100\text{cm}^2)$, and most preferably smaller than $1/(300\text{cm}^2)$.

84) Device according to claims 67,
characterized in that said optical pumping set-up comprises at
least one long cell containing the optically pumped low pressure
plasma.

85) Device according to claim 84,
characterized in that said cell comprises mirrors which serve to
double the absorption path length of the pumping light within
said cell, thereby conserving the degree of circular
polarization.

86) Device according to claim 85,
characterized in said mirrors are designed as being transparent
for certain spectral lines of ^3He .

87) Device according to claim 67,
characterized in that the light source of said optical pumping
assembly features a spectral distribution which is adapted to the
Doppler-width of the absorption line of the noble gas.

88) Device according to claim 87,
characterized in that said light source is a laser light source
and that for a given laser power the cross section of the laser
beam is designed in such a manner that the resulting light
intensity will not surpass the saturation value of maximum
optical pumping rate.

89) Device according to claim 84 ,
characterized in that said optical pumping assembly comprises
imaging optical elements being arranged outside said optical
pumping cells in order to focus the beam from the light source
such that the cross section of said beam remains everywhere
smaller than the cross section of the cell in order to prevent
for instance depolarizing reflection from the cell walls.

90) Device according to claim 84,

characterized in that at least the entrance and the outlet windows of said low pressure cells are made of glass of optical quality.

91) Device according to claim 90, characterized in that an element for determining the degree of circular polarization of light is provided and that said degree of circular polarization is determined by taking the difference of a maximum and a minimum measured voltage value and dividing it by their sum, these measurements being performed by passing the light first through a $\lambda / 4$ retardation plate followed by a liquid crystal element and finally a linear polarizer before it generates in a photo detector one or the other of said voltage values depending on a positive or negative voltage signal applied to the liquid crystal element which reacts on said positive or negative voltage signal by forming a bi-refrangent optical delay plate featuring delays of either an even or an odd multiple of half of the wave length $\lambda / 2$ or vice versa.

92) Device according to claim 87, characterized in that said element for determining the degree of circular polarization is being used to determine the degree of nuclear polarization of said noble gas plasma.

93) Device according to claim 66, characterized in that said optical pumping set-up comprises at least one high frequency driven electrode powering the plasma.

94) Device according to one of the claim 66, characterized in that said device comprises at least one pumping assembly to which said intermediate vacua of said elements with moveable components are being connected.

95) Device according to claim 94,
characterized in that said device comprises a purification
assembly for purifying the gas pumped out of said intermediate
vacua with the possibility to recycle that purified gas within
said device.

96) Procedure for producing nuclear spin polarized gases
comprising the following steps:
Optical pumping in a low pressure plasma
followed by mechanical compression of the gas and
transport into a storage volume,
wherein the method of fractional pumping is being applied in the
compression process.

97) Procedure according claim 96,
characterized in that said fractional pumping is performed by an
ultra high vacuum (UHV) compatible lead through according to
claim 53.

98) Procedure according to claim 96,
characterized in that the production of the nuclear spin
polarized gases is performed by help of a device according to
claim 66.

99) Procedure according to claim 96,
characterized in that said intermediate vacua are pumped
actively.

100) Procedure according to claim 96,
characterized in that the gas will be purified from contaminants
by getter devices before and/ or during optical pumping and / or
compression.

101) Procedure according to claim 100,
characterized in that said getter devices are being cooled.

102) Procedure according to claim 101,
characterized in that said getter devices are cooled down to the
temperature of liquid nitrogen.

103) Procedure according to claim 96
characterized in that the compression up to a pressure smaller
than 10 bar is performed with one and the same compressor device.

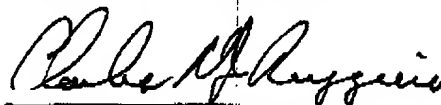
104) Procedure according to claim 96
characterized in that the noble gas which is being pumped out of
the actively pumped vacua is being purified and recycled to the
device for producing polarized noble gases.

REMARKS

This application now contains claims 53 through 104. Claims 1 through 52 are canceled. Favorable consideration is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan 10, 2001
Date



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